

EXPRESS MAIL NO.:EL563154934US

CLAIMS

Sub AI 1 1. A method of sharing queries in a hub processing unit coupled to a plurality of
2 information processing units over a network, the method on the information processing unit
3 comprising the steps of:

4 receiving a string from a user;

5 determining if the string is a query, if the string is a query performing the sub-steps
6 of:

7 storing the query in an information processing unit; and

8 forwarding the query to a hub processing unit in the event that the user
9 selects a query for sharing.

10 2. The method as defined in claim 1, wherein the sub-step of forwarding further
11 includes the sub-step of receiving from the user, a selection of a query from a query history
12 list.

13 3. The method as defined in claim 1, wherein the sub-step of forwarding further
14 includes the sub-step of receiving from the user, a selection of a query from the received
15 string that has been shown to be a query.

16 4. The method as defined in claim 1, wherein the determining step further includes the
17 sub-step of analyzing the string for a particular character or characters to determine if the
18 string is a query.

19 5. The method as defined in claim 1, wherein the sub-step of forwarding further
20 comprises the sub-step of appending additional information from the user to the shared
21 query.

22 6. The method as defined in claim 5, wherein the appending step further includes
23 appending additional information comprising category, title or descriptive information.

[illegible]

- defined in claim 1, where the information processing device is configured to:
- defined in claim 1, as long as string

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1 9. A method of sharing queries in a hub processing unit coupled to a plurality of client
2 information processing units over a network, the method on the hub processing unit
3 comprising the steps of:

4 receiving a query selected for sharing by a user of a client information processing
5 system;

6 storing the query;

7 catching search requests for shared queries entered by a second user;

8 processing the search requests;

9 upon finding an interesting shared query by the second user, performing the further
10 sub-steps of:

11 activating a hyperlink to request a search result set upon user selection of the
12 hyperlink; and

13 displaying the search result set for a user's review.

14 10. The method as defined in claim 9, wherein the catching step further comprises
15 catching searches made through headlines for documents.

16 11. The method as defined in claim 9, wherein the receiving step further includes a sub-
17 step of validating a received query string.

18 12. The method as defined in claim 9, further comprising a step of awarding a reward
19 or points for at least one query submission by a user.

20 13. The method as defined in claim 12, wherein the awarding step further comprises
21 notifying an accounting manager of the query submission.

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1 14. A client information processing unit coupled via a network with a hub processing unit
2 apparatus for sharing queries comprising:

3 an input for receiving a string from a user;

4 a comparator for determining if the string is a query;

5 an interface for storing the query in an information processing unit memory; and

6 an output for forwarding the query to a hub processing unit in the event that an
7 information processing unit user selects a query for sharing.

1 15. The client information processing unit as defined in claim 14, wherein the input
2 further includes a selection device so that a user selects a query from a query history list.

1 16. The client information processing unit as defined in claim 14, wherein the input
2 further includes a selection device so that a user selects a query from the received string
3 that has been shown to be a query.

1 17. The client information processing unit as defined in claim 14, wherein the
2 comparator includes an analyzer which analyzes the string for a particular character or
3 characters to determine if the string is a query.

1 18. The client information processing unit as defined in claim 14, wherein the input
2 further includes a graphical user interface that allows the user to append additional
3 information to the shared query.

1 19. The client information processing unit as defined in claim 18, wherein the graphical
2 user interface further includes a pop-up dialog box that requests additional information
3 comprising category, title or descriptive information.

1 20. The client information processing unit as defined in claim 14, wherein the
2 information processing unit memory further includes permanent or temporary memory.

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